

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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R 241512Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6673

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03040

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO JACK BLUM, SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATION HEARINGS

REF: A. STATE 40928 B. STATE 41540

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTELS WITH RATH ON
FEB. 23. (WE CALLED HIM FEB. 20 REGARDING HIS COMING
TO WASHINGTON.) RATH SAID THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE
DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER PUTS ON LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION
HE CAN GET ON A MILITARY FLIGHT TO THE U.S. ON VERY
SHORT NOTICE, BUT SINCE THE FLIGHTS ARE NOT ON A
REGULAR SCHEDULE THE MORE NOTICE HE HAS THE BETTER.
HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY LEBER THAT HE SHOULD
MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON DURING ANY HEARINGS
OF THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE DEALINGS WITH GERMANY,
WHETHER OPEN OR CLOSED SO AS TO BE ABLE TO OFFER
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IF APPROPRIATE.

2. RATH ASKED THAT BLUM BE INFORMED THAT RATH HAD
SEEN STEINRUECKE SINCE RATH'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON.
STEINRUECKE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED MONEY FROM LOCK-
HEED IN 1972 FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES,
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BUT THAT HE HAD SENT THE MONEY BACK TO GENERAL ORWAT

OF LOCKHEED.

3. BUNDESTAG MEMBER DR. WOERNER ALSO CONTACTED BY RATH. THE FORMER SAID THAT IN 1974, WHEN HE ACCEPTED AIRLINE TICKETS FOR HIMSELF AND ASSISTANT TO TRAVEL TO U.S. AND FLY THE S-3A, HE HAD SOUGHT AND RECEIVED PERMISSION TO DO SO FROM HIS SUPERIORS ON THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

4. FRG OMBUDSMAN FOR DEFENSE MATTERS AND FORMER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATE SECRETARY BERKHAN ALSO CONTACTED BY RATH. BERKHAN DENIED THAT HANSHOM HAD EVER INFORMED HIM OF AN ACCOUNT THAT FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS WAS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW UPON. THEREFORE BERKHAN COULD NOT HAVE TOLD HAUSER OF SUCH AN ACCOUNT AS HAUSER CLAIMS HE DID. RATH SAID BERKHAN IS PREPARED TO TELL THIS TO BLUM PERSONALLY.

5. GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FROM THE SPD FRACTION IN THE BUNDESTAG ASKING WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ANY LOCKHEED CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANY POLITICAL PARTIES AND WHETHER GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED THE USG TO SEE IF THE LATTER HAS KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH PAYMENTS. RATH SAYS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REPLY THAT THEY HAVE MADE NO INQUIRY TO THE USG BECAUSE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE USG HAS SUCH INFORMATION. IF THERE SHOULD BE SUCH INDICATION IN THE FUTURE, AN APPROACH TO THE USG WILL BE CONSIDERED.

6. RATH'S OFFICE PHONE NUMBER IS 02221-374979 REPEAT 02221-374979.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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